

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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TAGS: SNAR CB

SUBJECT: SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS/CONGRESSIONAL
PRESENTATION

REF: STATE 02151

1. FOLLOWING ARE RESPONSES REQUESTED KEYED TO FORMAT REFTEL.

2. SECTION A.

(A) NONE; (B) NONE; (C) NONE; (D) NONE; (E) NONE; (F) NONE.

3. SECTION B.

(A) SUMMARY -- THERE WERE FEW NOTEWORTHY DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE PERIOD. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC (GKR) WAS PRE-OCCUPIED WITH MATTERS BEARING ON ITS VIABILITY AND SURVIVAL AS A NATION, AND PROGRAMS AND POLICIES NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THESE PRIMORDIAL CONCERNS WERE INEVITABLY PUSHED ASIDE TO A CERTAIN EXTENT. THE DIRECTOR OF THE KHMER NARCOTICS DIRECTORATE (KND) PARTICIPATED IN VARIOUS CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY, AND THE KND CONTINUED THE GENERAL PATTERN OF ITS DRUG ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES AS REPORTED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES FROM THIS POST. THE REALITY OF THE WAR SEVERAL LIMITS THE KND WITH REGARD TO THE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES AND NUMBER AND QUALITY OF PERSONNEL ALLOTTED TO IT.

(B) ABUSE -- THERE IS LITTLE DRUG USE IN CAMBODIA. THERE

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IS A SMALL MINORITY OF THE POPULATION WHO SMOKE OPIUM

AND FREQUENT OPIUM DENS, BUT THE PROBLEM IS MINOR. THE GKR ATTITUDE TOWARD THIS ABUSE IS UNCHANGED; THE KND ATTEMPTS TO RESTRUCT IT AND PERIODICALLY MAKES SEIZURES AND CLOSES OPIUM DENS.

(C) TRAFFICKING TRENDS -- THAT NARCOTICS DO TRANSIT CAMBODIA TOWARDS VIETNAM, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT. HOWEVER, IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY THIS SMUGGLING AND IDENTIFY EXACT ROUTES AND METHODS INVOLVED. OUR CONCLUSION, BASED ON OUR OWN OBSERVATION AND DISCUSSIONS WITH DEA AGENTS FROM SAIGON, IS THAT THE ROUTE IS A SECONDARY ONE. NARCOTICS ENTER THE COUNTRY AT VARIOUS POINTS ALONG THE THAI BORDER AND ARE MOVED ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN SMALL AMOUNTS, FREQUENTLY ON THE PERSON OF INDIVIDUALS. THEY TRAVEL BY FOOT, BY BOAT AND PROBABLY, BY PLANE AS WELL. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS AN ORGANIZED NARCOTICS SMUGGLING MACHINERY IN CAMBODIA. RATHER IN THIS CHAOTIC AND FLUID WAR ATMOSPHERE, MANY TYPES OF SMUGGLING TAKE PLACE, AND NARCOTICS FORMS ONE PART OF THIS ACTIVITY. SINCE THE FLOW IS IN SMALL AMOUNTS AND DONE BY MANY LOW LEVEL PERSONS, IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO GET HARD INFORMATION ON IT AND TO CONTROL IT. THE DIFFICULTY IS GREATLY INCREASED BY THE MANIFOLD OTHER PROBLEMS THE COUNTRY IS FACING AND THE DIFFICULTY OF TRAVEL FOR ENFORCEMENT AGENTS WITHIN CAMBODIA.

(E) REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION -- THE GKR AND ITS NARCOTICS OFFICIALS, PRIMARILY THE DIRECTOR, HAVE GOOD RELATIONS ON A REGIONAL AND EXTRA-REGIONAL BASIS REGARDING NARCOTICS CONTROL. THE DIRECTOR REGULARLY ATTENDS MEETINGS OUTSIDE CAMBODIA AND THERE WERE VISITS BY COLOMBO PLAN AND UN OFFICIALS TO PHNOM PENH DURING THE PERIOD. HOWEVER, THERE REMAINS MUCH TO BE DONE IN IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE COOPERATION. AS WITH OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM, A MORE PEACEFUL, NORMAL ATMOSPHERE MUST PREVAIL BEFORE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS CAN REALISTICALLY BE EXPECTED.

(F) EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES -- THE KHMER NARCOTICS DIRECTORATE IS ESTABLISHED AND FUNCTIONING. RELATIONS BETWEEN IT AND THE EMBASSY ARE REGULAR AND GOOD. DEA AGENTS FROM SAIGON VISIT AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEAST TWICE A MONTH TO CONFER WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS AND KHMER OFFICIALS. THE PROGRAM IS AN ONGOING ONE, ALBIET AT A LOW LEVEL AT PRESENT FOR THE REASONS DESCRIBED IN THE SUMMARY SECTION. THERE ARE NO PROGRAM NEGOTIATIONS AT PRESENT.

(G) ENFORCEMENT -- DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FURNISHED US BY THE KHMER NARCOTICS DIRECTORATE, 20 KILOGRAMS OF OPIUM, ONE KILOGRAM OF

MORPHINE BASE AND 300 GRAMS OF HERION WERE SEIZED BY
KHMER AUTHORITIES. THERE HAVE BEEN FREQUENT ARRESTS
OF LOW-LEVEL TRAFFICKERS OF THE KIND REFERRED TO IN SECTION (D)
ON TRAFFICKING TRENDS. THE PERFORMANCE OF THE KND IS
SLOWLY IMPROVING, BUT THERE ARE LIMITS IMPOSED ON IT BY
THE FACT OF THE WAR. WITH ITS PRESENT SIZE AND PRIORITY,
IT CAN ONLY ABSORB LIMITED AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE, AND
MORE COULD NOT BE EFFECTIVELY USED. ACCORDINGLY, WE
BELIEVE THAT KND PERFORMANCE AND OUR LIMITED TRAINING
ASSISTANCE ARE IN TUNE.

(H) INCOME SUBSTITUTION -- NOT APPLICABLE.

(I) TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION -- THE
PROGRAM IN THE GKR IS SOLELY THAT OF ENFORCEMENT. THE
LEVEL OF NARCOTICS USE HERE DOES NOT WARRANT TREATMENT,
REHABILITATION OR EDUCATION PROGRAMS.
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